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West German "Maffia"  
in Washington

**T**HE growing aggressiveness of American imperialism and its overt return to the Big Stick policy give rise to conjectures and prognostications in the American press about the future of U.S. foreign policy and its possible great changes.

But as for changes in some important aspects of U.S. policy in Europe, they are already in evidence. For instance, the roles of the U.S. West European partners in the North Atlantic alliance have been recast.

A major change is that West Germany has superseded Britain as the United States' chief partner in Western Europe. The Conservative Douglas Home was not told about this directly, whereas the Labourite Harold Wilson was given to understand this during his first contact with the White House. Wilson's visit to Washington last December was immediately followed by talk in the American capital to the effect that "Britain's special relationship with the United States" had come to an end. This means, the *U.S. News & World Report* wrote, that "the privileged British position as a special U.S. ally is to go".<sup>1</sup>

That the Pentagon relies on Bonn's ranchism is no secret in Washington today. The American press even writes about the "vital" U.S.-German axis in NATO. And this is not accidental. Some influential American forces, orientated towards partnership with German monopoly capital since the pre-war period, have long been striving to establish this axis. They are sometimes referred to as the West German "Maffia".<sup>2</sup> These forces have acted and continue to act secretly, trying to conceal the channels and forms of their influence on the national policy of the United States.

<sup>1</sup> See *U.S. News & World Report*, Dec. 21, 1964, p. 25.

<sup>2</sup> The Italian word "maffia" usually stands for the semi-legal organisation in Sicily, which is in fact at the service of bourgeois-landowner circles and acts against progressive leaders and organisations through bribery, intimidation, extortion and murder.

On the eve of the war, despite the fact that the plans of German imperialism were also directed against the United States, the West German "Maffia" in Washington came out for U.S. "neutrality", i.e., for giving Germany a free hand in implementing her aggressive plans, and for a pro-German orientation of U.S. foreign policy. When the war broke out in Europe, the "Maffia" was opposed to Lend-Lease, military co-operation with the Soviet Union and the opening of the second front in Europe. Towards the end of the war, these forces tried to save Hitler Germany from unconditional surrender. They strove to frustrate the post-war policy in respect of defeated Germany, as agreed upon by the Allies in Yalta and Potsdam, and to whitewash the German imperialist monopolies of responsibility for having maintained the Hitler war machine. They hid war criminals and tried to prevent the Allies from reaching agreement on a general German peaceful settlement.

Today the "Maffia"'s men are helping Bonn revenge-seekers to gain access to the nuclear arsenal.

These reactionaries are countervailed by the American progressive forces. During the war, they repelled the onslaught of the "isolationists" and the avowed allies of the German monopolies, and supported the policy aimed at resisting the aggression and defeating Hitler Germany. They exposed the intrigues of the West German "Maffia", inflicting on it one defeat after another.

After the war the situation changed. The offensive organised chiefly by the "Maffia" had as one of its main objectives to disunite and weaken the democratic forces, and to break up the coalition which sent President Franklin D. Roosevelt to the White House for four terms.

The campaign launched by pro-fascist Senator McCarthy marked the beginning of the crusade against those who had considered that Hitlerism had to be routed completely and that Germany should be prevented from starting fresh military adventures. Raising a howl about the